

Vol. VIII  
of X

By Alan Moore  
and David Lloyd



Suggested  
For Mature  
Readers

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# V FOR VENDETTA



# V FOR VENDETTA™

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#### V FOR VENDETTA 8

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NOVEMBER  
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THE BAR

HELLO  
MR. ETHERIDGE,  
WORKING LATE,  
THEN?

I DON'T  
SUPPOSE YOU'VE  
SEEN MR. FINCH  
TODAY,  
AT ALL?

NO, UH,  
DOMINIC...

HAVEN'T SEEN ERIC  
SINCE HE, UH, CAME OVER  
FOR DINNER WITH, UH,  
MRS. ETHERIDGE AND  
MYSELF, UH, LAST  
TUESDAY.

NOTHING,  
UH, WRONG,  
I HOPE...

NO,  
NOTHING  
SERIOUS.

SOMETHING JUST CAME  
UP... PHARMACY CALLED  
TO SAY THEY'D MISPLACED  
THE RECORDS FOR SOME  
TOXIC CHEMICALS HE'D  
REQUISITIONED TWO  
MONTHS BACK.

THEY  
WANTED TO  
VERIFY WHAT  
HE'D TAKEN, NOW  
I CAN'T FIND  
HIM.

I WOULDN'T  
WORRY, BUT...  
WELL, IT'S NOT  
LIKE HIM.

HE'S BEEN A BIT  
DEPRESSED LATELY  
...ABOUT THE TERROR-  
IST CASE. JUST SITS  
AND TIME ALL  
THE REAS. PEOPLE  
I'VE NEVER  
HEARD OF.

THAT'D BE  
UH, ARTHUR  
KOESTLER

HE, UH,  
KILLED HIM-  
SELF AS I  
REMEMBER.

SO, UH, ANYWAY...  
HOW AS THE, UH,  
TERRORIST CASE  
COMING  
ALONG?

HMMH OH...UH, WELL,  
THERE WAS THAT  
TROUBLE EARLIER  
IN THE YEAR, BUT  
SINCE THEN...

SOMEONE  
CALLED  
KOESTLER

HE WAS, UH,  
THE PRESIDENT  
OF SOMETHING CALLED  
EXIT... A GROUP THAT  
USED TO CAMPAIGN  
FOR, UH, THE RIGHT TO  
DIE WITH DIGNITY.

... DEAD SILENCE.

BOOK 3

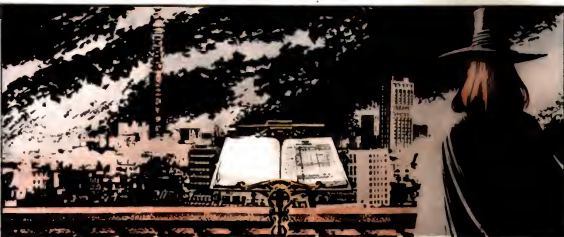
THE  
LAND OF  
DO-AS-YOU-  
PLEASE

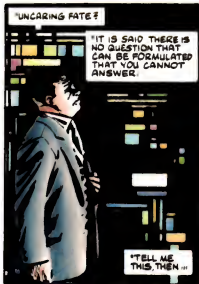
1912

Deutsche Statistik

Land	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
1. Deutschland	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2. Österreich	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
3. Ungarn	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
4. Polen	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
5. Tschechien	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
6. Jugoslawien	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
7. Griechenland	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
8. Türkei	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
9. Italien	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
10. Frankreich	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
11. Belgien	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
12. Niederlande	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
13. Dänemark	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
14. Schweden	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
15. Norwegen	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
16. Finnland	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
17. Island	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
18. Portugal	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
19. Spanien	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
20. Frankreich	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
21. Italien	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
22. Griechenland	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
23. Türkei	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
24. Japan	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
25. USA	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PROLOGUE







OH MY GOD.

YOU...  
AREN'T YOU  
FINCH'S  
MAN?



WHAT  
HAPPENED HERE!  
WE WERE JUST  
ARRIVING WHEN  
WE HEARD THE  
EXPLOSION...



M-MR HEYER?

BOMB... I WAS  
JUST... COMING  
OUT OF THE  
BUILDING...

MR.  
ETHERIDGE,  
SIR... HE WAS  
WORKING  
LATE...



ETHERIDGE?  
WHAT IS HE  
HURT?

H-HE'S  
DEAD  
SIR.

OH GOD  
I THINK I'M  
GOING TO BE  
SICK...



UGH,  
CONRAD, WHAT'S  
GOING ON? YOU  
JUST RAN OFF  
AND LEFT ME.

TH- THERE'S  
BEEN A BOMB.  
THE TOWER...



THE EYE AND THE EAR  
ARE BOTH CRIPPLED!  
I'VE GOT TO GET IN  
TOUCH WITH THE LEADER  
STRAIGHT AWAY...

HALF LONDON  
HEARD THAT BANG.  
THE MOUTH WILL  
HAVE TO ISSUE A  
STATEMENT...



ANOTHER "SCHEDULED  
DEMOLITION"? WHO'S  
GOING TO BELIEVE IT  
AFTER THE HOUSES  
OF PARLIAMENT AND  
THE OLD BAILEY?  
WHAT CAN THEY  
POSSIBLY SAY?

I DON'T  
KNOW, ANY-  
THING.

AT A TIME  
LIKE THIS, ANY-  
THING'S BETTER  
THAN SILENCE...







MR. CREEPY ON SCREEN TWO. MR. HEYER ON SCREEN FOUR. LEADER.



CAN'T IT WAIT?



I... UM, I'M SORRY, LEADER?



NOTHING.

PUT CREEPY ON. HAVE HEYER HOLD FOR A MOMENT.



LEADER...

IT'S JORDAN TOWER. HE'S BLOWN IT UP.

AND THE OLD POST OFFICE TOWER AS WELL. THE EYE AND THE EAR ARE OUT OF ACTION...



BLIND AND DEAF AND UNABLE TO SPEAK...

GET MOBILE TRANSMITTERS OUT ON THE STREETS AT ONCE.

THERE MUST BE NO PANIC, EVEN IF WE CANNOT IMMEDIATELY BROADCAST OUR REASSURANCES TO THE PEOPLE...



THAT'S JUST IT, LEADER. WE CAN'T BROADCAST IMMEDIATELY...

...BUT SOMEBODY ELSE ALREADY IS.

LISTEN TO THIS...



GOOD EVENING, LONDON.

THIS IS THE VOICE OF FATE.



ALMOST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO TONIGHT, A GREAT CITIZEN MADE A MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMON CULTURE.



IT WAS A CONTRIBUTION FORGED IN STEALTH AND SILENCE AND SECRECY, ALTHOUGH IT IS BEST REMEMBERED IN NOISE AND BRIGHT LIGHT.



TO COMMEMORATE THIS MOST GLORIOUS OF EVENINGS, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED TO RETURN THE RIGHTS OF SECRECY AND PRIVACY TO YOU, ITS LOYAL SUBJECTS.



FOR THREE DAYS, YOUR MOVEMENTS WILL NOT BE WATCHED...



YOUR CONVERSATIONS WILL NOT BE LISTENED TO...



... AND DO WHAT GOD BLESS THOU WILT SHALL BE THE WHOLE OF THE LAW.

... AND GOODNIGHT.



END OF PROLOGUE







"NO TELLY?"

"WHAT, AN NO RADIO NEITHER? WELL THAT'S BLOODY MARVELOUS! ERES ME PAYIN' LICENSE MONEY AND..."

"ERE ANG ABOUT: YOU SAID E BOMBED THE GPO TOWER AS WELL, DOES THAT MEAN THEY CAN'T



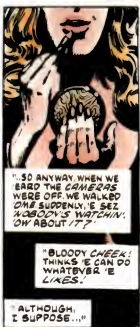
BOLLOCKS.



"... AND SHE SAYS NONE OF THE MICROPHONES ARE WORKING EITHER!"

"WON'T SEEM THE SAME, USED TO LIKE THE WAY THEM LITTLE CAMERAS WENT FORWARDS AND BACK, STILL..."

"I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL 'PROGRESS', EH?"



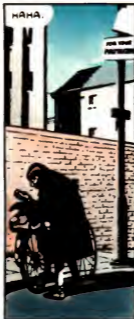
"... SO ANYWAY, WHEN WE BARD THE CAMERAS WERE OFF WE WALKED ONE SUDDENLY, E SEZ 'NOBODY'S WATCHIN', 'OW ABOUT IT?'"

"BLOODY CHEEK! THINKS 'E CAN DO WHATEVER 'E LIKES."

"ALTHOUGH, I SUPPOSE..."



BOLLOCKS.



HAHA.



BOLLOCKS MR. SUSAN  
BOLLOCKS FATE...

BOLLOCKS  
OUR DAD,  
BOLLOCKS MISS  
PLATT AT THE  
SCHOOL...

BOLLOCKS,  
BOLLOCKS,  
BOLLOCKS!



"...TERRORIST WHAT  
DONE IT. EVIL MAN,  
BUT VERY CLEVER.  
WHAT THEY CALL AN  
EVIL GENIUS."

"DOUGHTTA 'AVE A PROPER  
NAME: 'THE PANTHER,  
'THE FOX,' 'THE RIPPER.'  
THOSE WERE PROPER  
NAMES, NOT EFFIN'  
INITIALS!"

"STILL YER GOTTER  
'AND IT TO 'IM...'"



"HE'S TAKEN IT."

"HE'S TAKEN AWAY  
THE VOICE OF FATE.  
HOW SHALL I FILL  
THE GAP IT LEAVES?"

"HOW SHALL MY  
COUNTRY FILL  
THE SILENCE?"

# CHAPTER 1 VOX POPULI





WELL THE PEOPLE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TO SAY SO FAR, LEADER

THINGS ARE QUIET, ALTHOUGH IT'S EARLY YET SOME REINFORCEMENTS MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA JUST IN CASE



MY PROBLEMS... WITH BUNNY ... UM, MR. ETHERIDGE BEING BURIED IMMEDIATELY SOME OFFICERS HAVE REQUESTED FUNERAL LEAVE

I DON'T LIKE GRANTING IT, SITUATION BEING WHAT IT IS, BUT IT'LL OBVIOUSLY UPSET MRS. ETHERIDGE, NOBODY TURNING UP.



THE OTHER PROBLEM'S MR. FINCH, HE'S BEEN ACTING FUNNY... ABSENT FOR TWO DAYS, NO CRITICISM INTENDED, LEADER, BUT PERHAPS DIRECTING THE NOSE IS A JOB ...

"I LOVE YOU."

FOR A YOUNGER MAN, AND...



I...

I'M SORRY LEADER?

D-DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?



NO NO I DON'T THINK SO

SEND MRS. ETHERIDGE SOME FLOWERS WITH MY APOLOGIES, CANCEL ALL POLICE LEAVE AND DOUBLE THE MANPOWER ON THE STREETS.

OH YES... AND LOOTERS ARE TO BE SHOT



THAT WILL BE ALL, MR. CREDY.

ENGLAND PREVAILS.



"NGMF GLEP GOR, WHAT ABOUT THESE *BANGERS*?"

"NO, CHLOP, I MEAN, I BELIEVE IN LAW'N'ORDER, BUT *BLACK MARKET* OR *NOT*, IF I ADN'T TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE OFFER, SOME *OTHER BUGGER* WOULD 'AVE ..."

"GHMF PASS THE KETCHUP, AY?"



"...TO YOUR HOMES AND REMAIN CALM. NOTHING IS HAPPENING."

"THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL, AND CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO CARRY ON THEIR BUSINESS PRECISELY AS *NORMAL*."

"I REPEAT..."



"HELLO."

"I'D LIKE TO BUY A GUN."



OAH! Y'WANTAE BUY A SHOOTER, EH?

WULL AM SHURA DON'T KNOW WHY YUR ASKIN' ME. AM OOT FER A BEVVY. Y'KNOW? AM NO INTAE A'THIS GANGSTER SHITE



I-I'VE GOT MONEY. I HEARD YOU WERE THE PERSON TO ASK. AND THIS SEEMED THE BEST TIME, WHILE THE MONITORS ARE OFF.



AYE, WELL, RIGHT ENUFF, BUT AM NO CONVENCED. YUR NO THE SHOOTER TYPE, KNOWHATTAMEAN? WHURE YE WANTIN' SHOAT?

NOBODY!  
I... I JUST WANT PROTECTION. THINGS ARE SO THREATENING LATELY...



WHAT YUR WANTIN'S A MAN ABOUT THE PLACE, WEE GIRRLS SHOULDNAE FRIG ABOUT WI BLOODY CANNONS. ESS NO A WOMAN'S GAME.

I'VE GOT FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS.



I CAN GIVE YOU HALF NOW, THE REST WHEN...

SHH, NO SLOLD PER CHRIS-SAKES!

FOOR HUNDRED QUED, EH? AN YUR JUST AFTER WANTEN TAE PROTECT Y'SEL?



YES.  
HMM, WULL, MEETUS ROONDS BAAK, CLOSEN TIME A'LL SEE WHUT A KEN DO.

A HOPE Y'KNOW HOWTAE HANDLE ONE O'THSE THINGS, MISSUS.



ESS NO A POP GUN, Y'KNOW WHUT AM SAYIN'? MAKESAN OFFLY BIG BANG. YU WAIT TEL YUR HOLDEN ONE. YU'LL SEE

A'LL BE SEEN Y'LATER, THEN.

BYE FER NOO.





"BANG."



"...APPENIN' OVER  
EAST FINCHLEY TO-  
NIGHT."



"WHAT I 'ERD THIS  
NOBBY, 'IZ BIRD GOT  
FINGERED OVER A TIN  
O' BEANS, ONLY SHOT  
THE POOR LOW, DIDN'T  
THEY? SO, LIKE, EVERY-  
BODY'S TOOLED UP AN'..."



"...JUST AS IF SHE WAS  
A PAK! WELL, THEY'VE  
AD IT! THEY COME  
ROUND 'ERE TONIGHT,  
THEY'RE GUNNA GEDDA  
KICK IN THE 'ED..."

"A BIG KICK."



"IT DOES NOT DO TO  
RELY TOO MUCH ON  
SILENT MAJORITIES,  
EVEN FOR SILENCE  
IS A FRAGILE THING..."

"ONE LOUD NOISE,  
AND IT'S GONE."



"BUT THE PEOPLE ARE SO COMED AND DIS-ORGANISED A FEW MIGHT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROTEST BUT IT'LL JUST BE A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS"



"NOISE IS RELATIVE TO THE SILENCE PRECEDING IT THE MORE ABSOLUTE THE HUSH THE MORE SHOCKING THE THUNDERCLAP"

"OUR MASTERS HAVE NOT HEARD THE PEOPLE'S VOICE FOR GENERATIONS EYEW..."



"AND IT IS MUCH, MUCH LOUDER THAN THEY CARE TO REMEMBER."



CAN'T FOLLOW THEM INTO BRIXTON. HALF THE MEN NEED CHOLERA JABS, AND...

URGENTLY REQUEST

BEFORE LOOTERS REACH DEPTFORD MARSHES, WE NEED TWO MORE CARS AND...

FINGERWAGON VICTOR-CHARLEY-NINER, REQUEST ASSISTANCE, CROUCH END...

GREEN PARK. MOST PEOPLE IN-DOORS, BUT A CROWD FORMING IN KING'S ROAD AREA SEND

AGENCY, ALL CARS IN TOTTENHAM AREA

OK'S SAKE MAN, GET US SOME BACK-UP HERE

WHAT'S THAT?

A LATE SEVENTIES RADIO/CASSETTE, YOU CAN TUNE THEM TO THE POLICE BAND, EVEN IN A BROADCASTING BLACKOUT.

PROTESTING THE EXECUTIONS, IF WE CHARGE, THEY MIGHT

RECOMMEND TEAR GAS OR

VICTOR-CHARLEY-NINER, COME IN, PLEASE.

THE OLD BROADWATER FARM ESTATE, TELL MR. CREEPY THERE'S FIRES...

ALL THIS RIOT AND UPROAR, Y... IS THIS ANARCHY?

IS THIS THE LAND OF DO-AS-YOU-PLEASE!

PLEASE RESPOND, REPEAT: VICTOR-CHARLEY-NINER...

NO. THIS IS ONLY THE LAND OF TAKE-WHAT-YOU-WANT. ANARCHY MEANS "WITHOUT LEADERS"; NOT "WITHOUT ORDER"

WITH ANARCHY COMES AN AGE OF ORDER, OF TRUE ORDER, WHICH IS TO SAY VOLUNTARY ORDER

THIS AGE OF ORDER WILL BEGIN WHEN THE MAD AND INCOHERENT CYCLE OF VERWIRRUNG THAT THESE BULLETS REVEAL HAS RUN ITS COURSE.

THIS IS CHAOS.

THIS IS NOT ANARCHY, EVE.

## CHAPTER 2 VERWIRRUNG

HOW DID YEATS  
PUT IT ...

"TURNING AND  
TURNING IN THE WIDENING  
GYRE, THE FALCON  
CAN-  
NOT HEAR THE FALCONER  
THINGS FALL  
APART ...

"... THE  
CENTRE CANNOT  
HOLD."



THE RIOTS WILL STOP.  
COMMUNICATIONS WILL  
RESUME. LET ENGLAND  
BRIEFLY MIND ITSELF.  
AFTER MY TOIL, I AM  
ENTITLED TO SOME  
TENDERNESS.

I GAZE, ENTRANCED,  
INTO YOUR EYE.  
LUMINOUS FINGERS  
STROKE MY FACE.

FROM YOUR WORLD OF  
PURE MATH YOU TOUCH  
ME, IN THIS SOLID AND  
ENCUMBERING PLACE...

THERE: A HANGING? IT  
WENT BY SO QUICKLY...  
LETTERS; WORDS; A STADIUM  
CROWD; SHAVED ASIAN  
WOMEN HERDED THROUGH  
THE SHOWERS...

TOO FAST TO REGISTER.  
DOUBLE EXPOSED BY  
MEMORY, IMAGES RACE  
ACROSS YOUR GLASS,  
WATCHING MY PULSE,  
ACCELERATING...

OH GOD I'M... BURNING  
SHOPS; A CHIMP CON-  
VULSED BY SHOCKS...  
THE FEELINGS, WHITE  
SCREENS. OH MY GOD, MY...

... FATE ...

OH ...

OH, MY  
LOVE MY ...  
OOHHH ...

HHH-  
HAHHH ...

AH.



"MERE ANARCHY  
IS LOOSED UPON  
THE WORLD."



INVOLUNTARY ORDER BREEDS DISSATISFACTION, MOTHER OF DISORDER; PARENT OF THE GUILLOTINE.



AUTHORITARIAN SOCIETIES ARE LIKE FORMATION SKATING. INTRICATE, MECHANICALLY PRECISE AND ABOVE ALL, PRECARIOUS. BENEATH CIVILISATION'S FRAGILE CRUST, LOUD CHAOS CHURNS...



...AND THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THE ICE IS TREACHEROUSLY THIN...



YUR UNDER ARREST.

AAA!

NAH, AM ORNY KIDDEN



OH! OH GOD, YOU ...

L-LOOK, I'VE GOT THE MONEY, DID YOU GET THE ... THE THING, LIKE I ASKED?

TO DEFEND MYSELF WITH?

OH AHE, THE'S'LL DEFEND YE RIGHT 'NUFF.



THE'S'LL DEFEND SOMEBODY'S ENNARDS ENTAE THE GUTTER



AD ADVISE YE TE GET ET HOME CHECK. EF YUR SERCHED AV NEVER SEEN YE IN MA LIFE.

N-NO, I UNDERSTAND. I'LL TAKE IT STRAIGHT HOME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THANK YOU.



YUR WULCOME.





HELLO, ALLY. THOUGHT IT WAS TIME WE HAD A LITTLE CHIN-WAG.



MESTER CREEDEY. LIKE AM NO AWARE OF HAVIN DONE ANYTHENG TE UPSET ME..

HA HA HA! WHAT A LOAD OF BOLLOCKS. THERE'S G.B.H. ARMED ROBBERY. PROBABLY A MURDER OR TWO...

YOU'RE QUITE A LAD, ALLY.

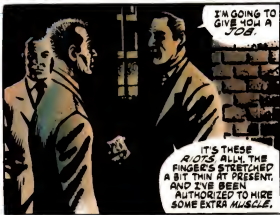


AA LUKE CMOAN. GESSA BREAK EN?



A BREAK? HA HA HA..

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MORE THAN A BREAK ME OLD SON



I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A JOB.

IT'S THESE RIOTS ALLY. THE FINGERS STRETCHED A BIT THIN AT PRESENT. AND I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO HIRE SOME EXTRA MUSCLE.



JUST FIND ME A FEW DOZEN HARD CASES. LOOKING FOR NIGHT WORK, CASH IN HAND. THERE'LL BE A COMMISSION FOR YOU. OBVIOUSLY. THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?

AHE WELL...

GREAT STUFF ALLY. GREAT STUFF!



WELCOME TO THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER.



AUTHORITY WHEN FIRST DETECTING CHAOS AT ITS HEELS. WILL ENTERTAIN THE VILEST SCHEMES TO SAVE ITS ORDERLY FACADE...

...BUT ALWAYS ORDER WITHOUT JUSTICE. WITHOUT LOVE OR LIBERTY. WHICH CANNOT LONG POSTPONE THEIR WORLD'S DESCENT TO PANDEMONIUM.

AUTHORITY ALLOWS TWO ROLES: THE TORTURER AND THE TORTURED; TWISTS PEOPLE INTO JOYLESS MANNEQUINS THAT FEAR AND HATE, WHILE CULTURE PLUNGES INTO THE ABYSS.

AUTHORITY DEFORMS THE REAKING OF THEIR CHILDREN, MAKES A COCKFIGHT OF THEIR LOVE...

ALL RIGHT, CONRAD. THAT'S ENOUGH. GET ME A TOWEL.

WHEN DID THE LEADER AUTHORIZE CREEDEY TO RECRUIT A GOON SQUAD?

LATE THIS AFTER-NOON, DO YOU WANT YOUR ROBE? HELEN?

NO.  
DIDN'T SUSAN REALIZE THAT CREEDEY'S ONLY WAITING FOR HIM TO CRACK COMPLETELY BEFORE MOVING IN WITH HIS PRIVATE ARMY AND STAGING A COUP?

THE LEADER MAY JUST BE UNDER STRAIN...

BALLS CONRAD, HIS MIND'S DISINTEGRATING... AND WHEN IT GOES, I WANT YOU IN THE NUMBER ONE SEAT AND NOT THAT SECONDARY-SCHOOL O.K. CREEDEY.

I SUPPOSE I SHALL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING, AS USUAL.

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE QUITE A SUCCESSFUL YOUNG MAN, CONRAD, IF YOUR SUCCESS WASN'T ENTIRELY DUE TO MY EFFORTS, I MIGHT EVEN FANCY YOU.

NOW, I'VE GOT THINGS TO ORGANISE IN THE MORNING, SO I'M GOING TO BED. I EXPECT I SHALL BE ASLEEP WHEN YOU COME UP.

YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THE LIGHT ON IN HERE, WILL YOU?

AUTHORITY'S COLLAPSE SENDS CRACKS THROUGH BEDROOM, BOARDROOM, CHURCH AND SCHOOL ALIKE. ALL IS MISRALE.

EQUALITY AND FREEDOM ARE NOT LUXURIES TO LIGHTLY CAST ASIDE. WITHOUT THEM, ORDER CANNOT LONG ENDURE BEFORE APPROACHING DEPTHS BEYOND IMAGINING.

V. WAIT A MINUTE...  
WE HAVEN'T BEEN  
DOWN HERE BEFORE  
WHERE ARE WE  
GOING? DO YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING HIDDEN  
DOWN HERE?

V?

V,  
ANSWER  
ME...

HELLO THIS IS  
LONDON  
6462732...

ERIC FINCH  
SPEAKING.

I'M NOT IN AT THE  
MOMENT, BUT IF YOU  
LEAVE YOUR NAME AND  
NUMBER AFTER THE  
TONE, I'LL GET BACK  
TO YOU.

HELLO?

UH, HELLO.  
THIS IS DOMING  
AGAIN...

SUPPER

LISTEN, JUST...  
JUST GET IN TOUCH.  
PLEASE, THERE'S PROBL-  
LEMS WITH MR. SUSAN  
AND MR. CREEBY. I CAN'T  
SAY MUCH ON THE PHONE.

IT'S ALL COMING TO BITS.  
MR. FINCH I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT I SHOULD DO.

WELL, I  
UH... I SUPPOSE  
THAT'S ALL.

GOING.

TAKE CARE

PROSTITUTE PHONE  
IT IS AN OFFENSE  
TO SELLER ANY  
PERSONS AND  
MURDER

V?

COME ON, V. I'M  
WAITING FOR AN  
ANSWER.  
WHERE...?

THIS IS  
MY SECRET  
LOVE NEST,  
EYE.

I'M  
WAITING FOR  
YOU TO MEET MY  
MISTRESS.

YOUR WHAT?

IT IS A TANGLED AND UNHAPPY TALE OF HEARTS BETRAYED AND LOYALTIES MIS-PLACED.

IT WAS NOT I THAT STAINED MY LOVE WAS JUSTICE AND, INFATUATED WITH HER TRUTH AND LOVELINESS, I WOSHIPPED HER.

...UNTIL, BEHIND MY BACK, SHE TOOK UP WITH A MAN WHO VIOLATED AND ABUSED HER; SOMEONE PIECE AND BRUTAL WITH BURNED CHILDREN ON HIS BREATH.

HE CHANGED HER, SHE ACQUIRED A TASTE FOR LEATHER, CHAINS AND WHIPS

THE JUSTICE THAT I LOVED WAS GONE; WHO HAD SUCH KINDLY EYES; WHO TOOK SUCH SMALL AND CAREFUL STEPS...

TRANSFORMED, SHE GLAZED THROUGH NARROW SLITS AND GROUND GOOD MEN BE-NEATH HER VICIOUS HEEL.

IMAGINE WHEN I LEARNED OF HER AFFAIR...

MY ANGER AND MY SHAME TO THINK HOW THEY MADE MOCK OF ALL THAT I LOVED MY JUSTICE AND HER, BESTIAL SWAIN, CAVORTING IN THEIR BLOODSTAINED SHEETS

STILL, ALL IN LOVE AND WAR IS FAIR, THEY SAY THIS BRING BOTH, AND TURN-ABOUT'S FAIR PLAY.

THOUGH I MUST BEAR A CUCKOLD'S HORNS, THEY'RE NOT A CROWN THAT I SHALL BEAR ALONE.

YOU SEE, MY RIVAL, THOUGH INCINED TO ROAM, POSSESSED AT HOME A WIFE THAT HE ADOR'D.

HE'LL RUE HIS PROMISCUITY, THE ROGUE WHO STOLE MY ONLY LOVE, WHEN HE'S INFORMED HOW MANY YEARS IT IS ..

SINCE FIRST I BEDED HIS.



**NEW  
SCOTLAND  
YARD**



THE NOSE: NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 1898.

"ROSES ARE RED VIOLETS ARE BLUE BY EVERYTHING'S POSSIBLE NOTHING IS TRUE!"

THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE LOVE NOTES. WHO ISSUED THEM?

LEARNING THAT'S YOUR DEPARTMENT

MY CIVILIAN AUXILIARY LADS FOUND 'EM ON VARIOUS LAY-ABOUTS THEY ROUNDED UP THIS MORNING.

"I LOVE THE RAIN, I LOVE THE MOON, I LOVE THE WIND AND STARS..."

WORK OF A NUTCASE COUNTRY'S GOING BARE. YOU KNOW THERE'S FOOD RIOTS IN MANCHESTER? OVER A BLOODY COMPUTER ERROR?

"...I'D LOVE TO VISIT YOU QUITE SOON AND KISS YOU THROUGH THE BARS."

WHAT'S IT MEAN?

IT MEANS TROUBLE, SON. TIMES LIKE THIS, BLOKE NEEDS TO KNOW WHO HIS FRIENDS ARE.

TAKE YOU, NOW... ACTING HEAD OF THE NOSE SINCE BALDY DISAPPEARED DODGY POSITION THINGS AROUND HERE COULD CHANGE OVERNIGHT.

OVER-NIGHT.

'COURSE, THE LEADER'S MARVELLOUS, BUT, WELL, IF ANYTHING HAPPENED WHO'D ALL THE VOID? I HAVE TO CONSIDER THESE THINGS, EH?

'I KNOW, I NEVER COTTONED TO PINCH, BUT I COULD COTTON TO YOU.

MAYBE OUR DEPARTMENTS COULD CO-OPERATE MORE IN FUTURE, PERHAPS...

"I LOVE YOU BUT WHY MUST YOU LOVE THE LAW? IT'S PLAIN FOR ALL TO SEE THAT SHE'S A WHORE..."

"...THAT VIRTUOUS PERSONS HAVE NO NEED TO WOO; THAT VILLAINS SCREW, THEN STUDIOUSLY IGNORE."

HA, QUITE FUNNY, THAT.

CAN YOU FIND YOUR OWN WAY OUT?

# CHAPTER 3 VARIOUS VALENTINES







ORGANIZEN A PROTEST  
AGAINST THE SHOOTERS.  
EH?

A WULL, SLENG  
THE LITTLE GOBBSHITE  
EN THE WRAO'N WITHE  
REST CAN Y'NO SEE AM  
ON MA LUNCHBREAK?



MORNING, ALLY  
KEEPING  
BUSHT?

A, ET'S A  
DODDLE ALL A THUS  
MONEY FUR DAMAGIN'  
SOME PUIZ BASTUD AN  
TACHIN AP THUR MESSUSEZ  
EN THE STREP. SEARCH



YUZ COAPERS 'R  
CLEVER BASTUDS.  
KEEPEN THESS  
NUMBER TAE  
YOURSELN

HANA WULL,  
PLAY YOUR CARDS  
RIGHT, YOUR LADS  
COULD HAVE  
REGULAR WORK  
HERE

I LIKE YOUR  
STYLE, AND WITH  
THINGS HOW THEY ARE  
A LITTLE AUXILIARY  
FORCE COULD COME  
IN YBRY HANDEY.



SAY FOR EXAMPLE  
I OFFERED FOUR  
HUNDRED A  
WEEK

I MEAN, FOR  
THAT I'D WANT YUOZ  
GUARANTEED LOYALTY  
IF PUSH COME TO SHOVE,  
UNDERSTAND WHAT  
I'M SAYING?



A THINK A  
MIGHT HAV AN  
ENKLENG.

WELL, THINK  
ON I COULD PROMISE  
GOOD PROSPECTS  
IN ANY SYSTEM THAT  
MIGHT DEVELOP.  
YOU KNOW...

IF PUSH  
COME TO SHOVE



SEE, THINGS ARE PRECARIOUS.  
APPARENTLY, THEYVE HAD POWER  
FAILURES IN LIVERPOOL.  
IF THAT HAPPENED  
HERE...

A NAE BOTHER,  
FUR FOUR HUNNERD  
QUED, YEV MA FULL  
SUPPORT.

NOW,  
EF YU'LL  
EXCUSE ME...



OFF ALREADY? NOT  
PURSUING OTHER  
BUSINESS INTERESTS  
I HOPE?

NAN, ET'S  
JUSS THESS  
BERRD

LESSEN A  
FOOND SOME MAID,  
O THEY LETTERS  
Y BETTER HAV  
EM TAE LUKE AT



SEE YUZ  
LATER,  
A RIGHT?





HULLO, MESSER. A GOAT YER MESSAGE SORRY AM LATE AN A' THAT...

IN FUTURE, YOU'LL BE PUNCTUAL I DON'T LIKE WAITING.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?



ARE YER THE MESSER D' THAT BLOKE RUNNEN THE EYE.

AND YOU'RE RUNNEN CREEEY'S CIVILIAN AUXILIARY FORCE.

YOU KNOW HE'S PLANNING A COUP? HE WANTS TO BE LEADER.



A WULL, A KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT ANN O' THAT...

DON'T PLAY DUMB THIS IS A STRAIGHT FORWARD BUSINESS DECISION: CREEEY WANTS TO BE LEADER; I WANT CONRAD TO BE LEADER.

HOW MUCH IS HE PAYING YOU?



WULL, UH, AM GETTIN' FIVE HUNNED AT PRESENT...

REALLY? I'D HAVE THOUGHT FOUR HUNNED MAXIMUM.

I'M PREPARED TO OFFER S/X, PLUS AN INCREASE UPON YOUR THUGS' CURRENT WAGES.



HE DON'T PESS ABOUT, WORKING FOR CREEEY, DO YE? WHAT'S DRAWING HIS WAGES, MA JOAB?

YOU CARRY ON, BUT REPORTING TO ME...

... AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE REALLY WORKING FOR.



LUKE, AM NO AGGRAVATIN' THE POLS. CREEEY'S RUNNEN THE FEVER.

HARPER, DO AS I SAY AND YOU'LL SOON BE RUNNEN THE FINGER.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT CREEEY, HE'S IN A HAZARDOUS OCCUPATION...



LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS PREDECESSOR.



DEREK ...

DEREK YOU WERE USE-  
LESS, THEN YOU DIED.  
THAT'S ALL.

YOU DIED AND I  
CAN'T SLEEP AT  
NIGHTS

YOU DIED AND LEFT  
ME BARE IN FRONT  
OF STRANGERS

DEREK WHEN WE MARRIED,  
YOU REMEMBER, I WAS  
WORKING AT THE BANK AND  
YOU WERE IN INSURANCE. WE  
WERE GOING TO BUY A HOUSE  
IN SURREY, PERHAPS HAVE  
CHILDREN THAT WAS IN '87...

JUST BEFORE  
THE WAR.

AND THEN, IN '92,  
YOU JOINED THE  
PARTY.

MRS DAVIS NEXT DOOR  
LOANED US FOOD ALL  
THROUGH THE WAR YEARS,  
WHEN THEY DRAGGED HER  
AND HER CHILDREN OFF IN  
SEPARATE VANS WE  
DIDN'T INTERVENE

... AND NOW YOU'RE DEAD AND  
I WALK HOME ALONE EACH  
NIGHT THROUGH RIOT ZONES,  
PAST LOOTINGS, SHOOTINGS,  
BURNING BUILDINGS...

NOW YOU'RE DEAD AND I  
CROUCH LIKE AN ANIMAL  
AND OFFER MY HIND-  
QUARTERS IN SUB-  
MISSION TO THE WORLD

NOW YOU'RE DEAD AND  
I CAN'T SLEEP FOR BE-  
ING SCARED, FOR CRYING,  
HATING, THINKING "WHO  
HAS DONE THIS TO ME?"

I CAN'T SLEEP FOR  
WANTING JUSTICE,  
WANTING ALL THE  
WORLD TO KNOW OF  
ITS UNFAIRNESS...

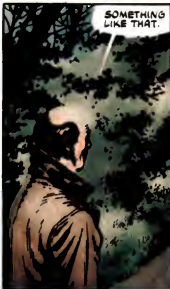
CAN'T SLEEP FOR  
THE GUN BENEATH  
MY PILLOW.



TA VERY MUCH.

Y'KNOW, YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE TO SLEEP OUT HERE. THERE'S NO BED AND BREAKFASTS ANYMORE. WERE YOU THINKING OF CAMPING OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

YES.



SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



THIS IS FOR YOU, DELIA. YOU MORE THAN ANYBODY.

I WAS HAPPY WITH YOU. YES, YES, I WAS HAPPY WITH CYNTHIA AND LITTLE PAUL, BUT THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO.

I'D GOTTEN OVER THAT.



I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU, DELIA.

FOR THE COUNTRY, YES, THAT TOO; AND FOR ME, OF COURSE FOR ME; BUT YOU MORE THAN ANYBODY.



YOU'RE THE REASON I CAME HERE.

THIS IS WHERE IT STARTED.



THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS.





V7  
YOU'RE ALMOST FINISHED, AREN'T YOU?

SEE FOR YOURSELF



"THE PIECES ARE SET OUT BEFORE ME, PERFECTLY ALIGNED."

"COMPLETE, ONE MAY AT LAST GRASP THEIR DESIGN, THEIR GRAND SIGNIFICANCE."



...BUT "ALMOST FINISHED"???

YES.

YES, I SUPPOSE I AM.



"THOUGH RECOGNITION'S BEEN DELAYED BY ITS CIRCUITOUS CONSTRUCTION, NOW THE PATTERN LONG CONCEALED EMERGES INTO VIEW."

"IS IT NOT FINE? IS IT NOT SIMPLE AND ELEGANT AND SEVERE?"

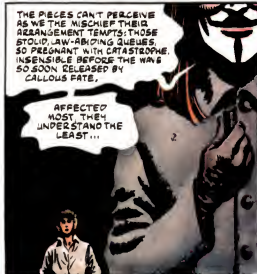


HOW STRANGE AFTER THE LONG EXACTING TOIL OF PREPARATION THAT IT TAKES ONLY THE SLIGHTEST EFFORT AND LESS THOUGHT TO START THIS BRIEF, ELABORATE AMUSEMENT ON ITS BREATHLESS, HURTLING RACE:

THE MEREST TOUCH, NO MORE...



"...AND EVERYTHING FALLS INTO PLACE."



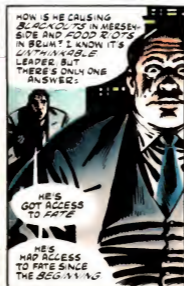
THE PIECES CAN'T PERCEIVE AS WE THE MISCHIEF THEIR ARRANGEMENT TEMPTS; THOSE STOLID, LAW-BINDING QUEUES, SO PREGNANT WITH CATASTROPHE, INSENSIBLE BEFORE THE WAY SO SOON RELEASED BY CALLOUS FATE.

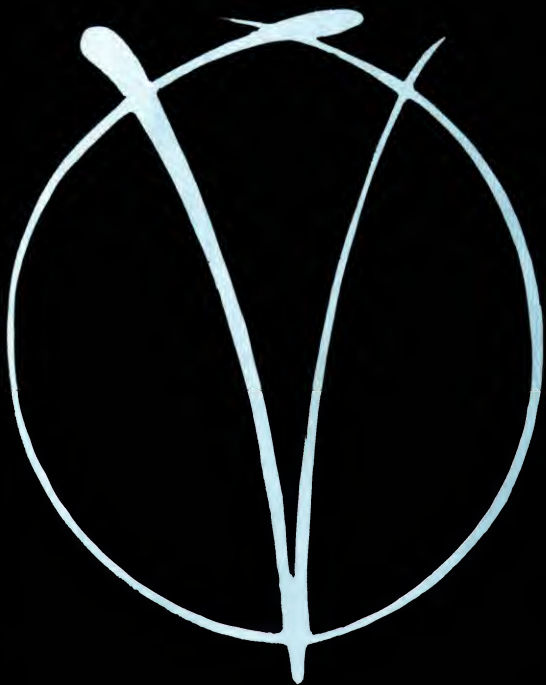
AFFECTED MOST, THEY UNDERSTAND THE LEAST...











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